

**REPORT ON HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER CEREMONY
AT THARWA BRIDGE OVER MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ON 27 MARCH 1995**



Photo: Scene at Bridge Celebrations – 27.3.95

THARWA BRIDGE OVER MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER IN ACT

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER CEREMONY REPORT

After approval by the Commemorative Plaque Sub-Committee of the Institution's National Committee on Engineering Heritage, an Historic Engineering Marker was unveiled on the Bridge on Monday 27 March 1995. The function was arranged by Canberra Division Heritage Panel, with substantial assistance from the ACT Department of Urban Services (the bridge owner). It was held in conjunction with Tharwa Bridge Centenary Celebrations, organised by a local residents committee chaired by Mr Val Jeffrey, a Tharwa businessman.

The plaque was placed on the southern (village) part of the bridge, attached to a concrete headstock below the bridge trusses.

The date and time of unveiling were selected to correspond with the official opening of the bridge exactly 100 years before. The original opening was re-enacted in faithful detail by local residents as part of the Centenary celebrations.

CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO CEREMONY

Mr Keith Baker, member of the Canberra Division Heritage Panel, attended meetings of the Tharwa residents centenary committee over several weeks before the ceremony, to ensure that the Institution's intentions and ceremony plans were consistent with the centenary celebrations.

The Panel Chairman maintained close liaison with the ACT Department of Urban Services (Roads and Bridges Management Section) including pre-ceremony site meetings with particular regard to:

- selection of plaque site and fixing to bridge
- provision of suitable stage, official seating and public seating at plaque site
- list of persons associated with the bridge restoration and maintenance
- video record of ceremony and reproduction of brochures
- traffic prior to ceremony and off site parking
- financial assistance for associated costs.

Canberra Division Assistant Manager (Mrs Barbara Lowe) carried out all brochure layout work, production of documents and processing of guest invitations and acceptances.

PRE-CEREMONY MEDIA RELEASE

Copy (attachment "A") was forwarded to all 3 local print media and 4 T.V. stations.

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION/INVITATIONS

Letters or invitations were sent to:

President of the Institution	Prof D Clyde
Chief Executive of the Institution	Dr J Webster
President, Canberra Division	Mr Allan Johnson & Mrs Johnson
Chief Minister of ACT	Mrs Kate Carnell
Secretary ACT Dept of Urban Services	Mr John Turner
Chair Australian Heritage Commission	Ms Wendy McCarthy
Chair ACT Heritage Council	Mr Eric Martin
Secretary (ACT) National Trust	Mr Mike Hodgkin

Also, invitations were given to ACT Government personnel who had worked on maintenance, restoration or administration of the bridge works.

Copy of official invitation is attachment ``B".

Official invitees are scheduled in attachment ``C".

Attendances are scheduled in attachment ``D". Total attendance on guest list = 60.

PLAQUE CEREMONY

A brochure setting out, briefly, background of the Plaque Award program, history of bridge and its designer and order of the ceremony was distributed to all invited guests – copy (attachment ``E")

Dr Clyde (President IEAust) had advised that he could not attend, and was represented by Canberra Division President, Mr Allan Johnson. On the day of the ceremony, a change to order of ceremony was made – the Chief Minister (Mrs Carnell) who had been unable to accept her original invitation, was able to re-arrange her program that day and agreed to Mr Johnson's request that she carry out the unveiling, immediately after his address as per the official program.

The ceremony, and speakers, were otherwise as listed on the ceremony brochure.

The plaque had been fixed to a concrete headstock of the bridge, immediately beneath the Tharwa end of the Allan bridge trusses. The ceremony was conducted from a temporary stage immediately beneath the plaque – see photos. It was carried out in accord with the overall Centenary program for the day i.e. after the re-enactment of the bridge opening and speeches by New South Wales local political representatives (the bridge being in NSW before Federation in 1901).

Apart from official and invited guests at the plaque unveiling ceremony approximately 1000 people from the local community were present for the unveiling.

It was followed immediately by light refreshments for the Institution's guests, provided in conjunction with the Centenary celebrations.

Weather conditions on the day were excellent – clear, sunny, moderate breeze.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Articles in Queanbeyan ``Age" – and Engineering Times.

- News item on evening T.V. news, with film and interview with ACT Government Urban Services engineer (Mr Alan Toohey)

FILM/PHOTO RECORDS

- A copy of video of all proceedings including speeches has been provided by ACT Urban Services Department (separate).

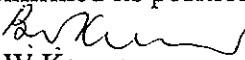
- Photographs are attached of various stages in the ceremony. See attached schedule.

FOLLOW UP

All government participants and local leaders were thanked for their participation. Copies of letters to Urban Services Department and Chief Minister, and her reply – attached.

CONCLUSION

The ceremony and the overall centenary event were very successful. Co-operation with government and local residents was outstanding, and the Institution confirmed its position as a significant member in the ACT Heritage community.


B W Kenny

Chair

Plaque Ceremony Committee

23 March 1995

MEDIA RELEASE

THARWA BRIDGE CENTENARY

Tharwa Bridge will be 100 years old next Monday 27 March 1995. The engineering profession will celebrate the occasion with the local community by presenting an Historic Engineering Marker, prepared by The Institution of Engineers, Australia.

After a re-enactment by Tharwa Community of the bridge opening in 1895, the marker presentation will be made. Allan Johnson, President of the Institution's Canberra Division will unveil the marker plaque at 1.00pm at the bridge. It begins a second century of service to people of Tharwa and district.

The plaque is part of the Institution's Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme, intended to give public recognition to historically significant works, engineers responsible for them, and social and environmental aspects of their contribution to Australia's progress. The attached extract from an information brochure prepared for the occasion gives background and history.

Contact - Canberra Division Office Phone 273 1314

or Byrne Kenny - Phone 281 5249 (Home)



The Tharwa Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River in the Australian Capital Territory has been recognised as an historic work by the Institution of Engineers, Australia. An Historic Engineering Marker is to be unveiled on the centenary day of the bridge's opening.

The ceremony will take place at the bridge following a re-enactment by the Tharwa Community of the original procession and opening 100 years ago.

*The Canberra Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia
and the
ACT Department of Urban Services
invite*

Mr and Mrs Byrne Kenny

*to be present at the ceremony at
the bridge, Tharwa Rd, Tharwa, ACT
at 1.00pm on Monday 27 March 1995*

Light refreshments will be available

RSVP 17 March 1995
Canberra Division, PO Box E66, Queen Victoria Terrace ACT 2600 Ph (06) 273 1314

THARWA BRIDGE – UNVEILING CEREMONY : HEM PLAQUE

LIST OF IEAUST INVITATIONS TO OFFICIAL PARTY

President of the Institution – Prof D Clyde
Chief Executive of the Institution – Dr J Webster
Chair of Board of Engineering
Chair of Civil College– Mr Ron Badger
Chair, National Committee on Engineering Heritage – Mr Tony Moulds
Deputy Chair, National Committee on Engineering Heritage – Mr Paul Hagenbach
Members of National Committee on Engineering Heritage:
D Kemp SA
W Jordon Newcastle
A Bowie Sydney
K McInnes VIC
B James WA
K Drewitt TAS
H Trueman Sydney
D Fraser Sydney (Chair Plaque Sub-Committee)
Canberra Division Committee and Branch Chairmen and spouses
Canberra Division Heritage Panel and spouses
Canberra Division Staff – Manager: Ms Caroline Werner
Assistant Manager: Mrs Barbara Lowe
National Office Staff –
Director of Engineering: Mr David Hood and Mrs Hood
Associate Director of Engineering: Mr Robert Breen and Mrs Breen
Chair Australian Heritage Commission– Ms Wendy McCarthy
Chair ACT Heritage Council – Mr Eric Martin
Secretary National Trust – Mr Mike Hodgkin
Chair ACT Historical Society – represented by Mr Tom Lawrence
Chair Tharwa Bridge Centenary Committee – Mr Val Jeffery
Acting Director ACT City Services – Mr Gordon Davidson
Senior Manager Traffic and Roads – Mr Leigh Palmer
Supervising Engineer (ACT Roads and Bridge Management) – Mr James Cox
Senior Engineer (ACT Bridges) – Mr Mike Jovanovic

OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE – THARWA BRIDGE HEM CEREMONY

Allan & Rose Johnson – Chair, Canberra Division IEAust
John Turner – Secretary, ACT Department of Urban Services
Dr John Webster – Chief Executive IEAust
Byrne & Nance Kenny – Chair, Canberra Division Heritage Panel
Dr Syndy Hall – Chair, Mechanical College
Ron Badger – Chair, Civil College
Dr D J Fraser – National Committee Engineering Heritage
David Hood – Director Engineering, IEAust
Robert Breen & Mrs Breen – Assistant Director Engineering, IEAust
Graeme Lowe – Canberra Division Committee
Barbara Lowe – Assistant Manager, Canberra Division
Gail Abel – Canberra Division Office
Cyril & Margaret Streatfield – Canberra Division Committee
Frank Wilkinson – Deputy President, Canberra Division
David Daverin – Canberra Division Committee
Graham Read – Canberra Division Committee
Lloyd & Norma Wrigley – IEAust Heritage Panel
Ross & Mary McIntyre – IEAust Heritage Panel
Keith & Judy Baker – IEAust Heritage Panel
Ken & Mrs Haw – IEAust Heritage Panel
Ken & Mrs Hughes – IEAust Heritage Panel
Ian & Jean Main – Canberra Division
Bob Nairn – Canberra Division Committee
Eric Martin – Chair, ACT Heritage Council
Tom & June Lawrence – Canberra Historical Society and IEAust
John & Judy Kemp – National Office, IEAust
Alex Marsden – Australian Heritage Commission
John Feint – ACT Department – Manager, Heritage Unit
Val & Dorothy Jeffery – Tharwa Bridge Centenary Committee
Peter Henry – Principal, Tharwa Primary School
James Cox – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Roads Management)
Mike Jovanovic – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Management)
Bob Bylo – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Management)
Paul Dowling – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Management)
Marc Edwards – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Roads Administration)
Alan Toohey – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Roads Quality Assurance)
Bill East – ACT Public Works
David Dempster – ACT Dept of Land & Environment
David Lissimore – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Roads Administration)
Stephen Buck – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Asset Services)
Mike Hodgkin – National Trust (Canberra Division)
Danielle Hyndes – National Trust (Canberra Division)
Slavica Dimitrijevic – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Section)
Derek Hyde – Acting Director – ACT Dept of Urban Services
Clive Roach – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Roads Maintenance Mgr)
Hans Hovi – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Maintenance)
Darren Berwick – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Maintenance)
Paul Van Ewyk – ACT Dept of Urban Services (Bridge Maintenance)

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

THARWA BRIDGE



THIS FIRST PERMANENT BRIDGE OVER THE UPPER MURRUMBIDJEE RIVER WAS OPENED ON 27 MARCH 1895. IT PROVIDED A RELIABLE ROAD CROSSING BETWEEN THE SYDNEY-COOIMA RAILWAY AND THARWA DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS. THE FOUR CENTRAL SPANS REMAIN FROM THE ORIGINAL BRIDGE. THEY ARE THE OLDEST EXAMPLES IN SERVICE OF THE DURABLE COST EFFECTIVE TIMBER TRUSSES DESIGNED IN 1893 SPECIFICALLY FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS BY PERCY ALLAN OF THE NSW PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

DEDICATED ON THE CENTENARY OF THE BRIDGE OPENING BY
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN SERVICES, ACT. 1995

Official Ceremony for the
presentation and unveiling of an

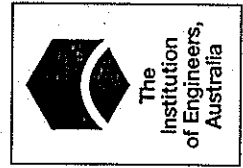
HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

for

THARWA BRIDGE, ACT

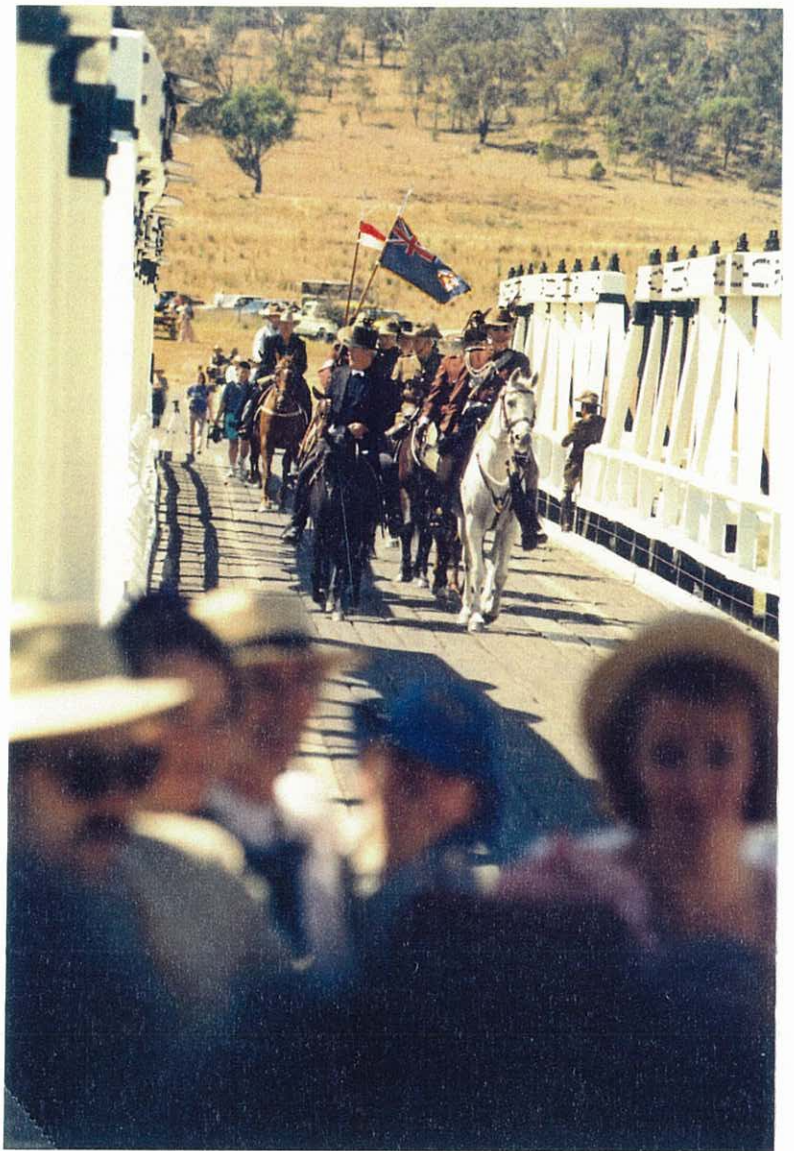
Monday 27 March 1995 at 1.00pm

Tharwa Bridge has completed 100 years of service and the engineering profession joins with the Tharwa people in commemorating this example of durable cost effective Australian technology.



This plaque is presented as part of the Australian Historic Engineering Plaquing Program. The program is an initiative of the Institution of Engineers, Australia - through its National Committee on Engineering Heritage - to give public recognition to historically significant works, the engineers responsible for them, and social and environmental elements of their contribution to Australia's progress.

Procession during re-enactment
of bridge opening



Re-enactment bridge "ribbon-cutting"





Plaque unveiling – Official Party

Top: (L to R) Dr John Webster, Allan Johnson, Byrne Kenny, Mrs Kate Carnell, James Cox (sub. for original bridge builder), John Turner, Dr Don Fraser (NCEH)

Bottom: Chief Minister Kate Carnell unveils plaque





Top: Chief Minister (Kate Carnell) with President, Canberra Division IEAust. (Allan Johnson)

Bottom: The HEM Plaque

